UGC to State Universities and Colleges, the severe constraint of resources and the need to provide adequate infrastructure in the newly established Central Universities in the north-east, the Government should exercise restraint in setting up more Central Universities. In view of this, the Central Government, at present, is not in favour of converting existing State Universities/institutions into Central Universities.

(c) Question does not arise.

Increase in private schools

†648. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of private schools are increasing throughout the country;

(b) whether these schools are free to charge fees in an arbitrary manner;

(c) whether Government are considering to fix any criterion to control the arbitrariness of these private schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHABHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The control over the functioning of the Private Schools is largely the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments where the school is located. There is a provision in the Bye-laws of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE), that the fees charged by the schools should be commensurate with the facilities provided. CBSE has issued instructions for compliance of this provision.

Mid-day Meal

649. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.